



**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT,  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS,  
AND FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED  
ACTION IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN, FLOODWAY, AND WETLANDS**

**EAST BRANCH OF THE AUSABLE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT  
EAST BRANCH OF THE AUSABLE RIVER NEAR THE HAMLET OF UPPER JAY  
TOWN OF JAY, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**March 13, 2021**

**Name of Responsible Entity and Recipient:** New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207, in cooperation with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), of the same address. Contact: James McAllister (646) 256-9485.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 58.43, this combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact, Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI/NOIRROF), and Final Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Action in a 100-year Floodplain, Floodway, and Wetlands satisfies three separate procedural requirements for project activities proposed to be undertaken by HCR.

**Project Description:** The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of HCR's HTFC, is responsible for the direct administration of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in New York State. GOSR proposes to provide CDBG-DR funding of \$925,962.62 to Essex County for the East Branch of the Ausable River Restoration Project (the "Proposed Project"), which involves implementation of improvements to the East Branch of the Ausable River (EBAR) near the hamlet of Upper Jay, Town of Jay, Essex County, New York. The Proposed Project will involve construction activities at two (2) locations and seeks to restore and improve river system functioning through the restoration of over widened reaches; mitigating channel widening and restoration of habitat; and clearance of debris along the EBAR and its tributaries. The Proposed Project will involve off-site tree harvesting, which will be performed in accordance with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulations with participation and oversight by USFWS in accordance with existing agreements. Implementation of the Proposed Project will result in decreased risk of future flooding, alleviation of ice jamming, protection of critical infrastructure, and will help protect public and private assets from future flood and debris damage. The total funding amount is anticipated to be \$925,962.62.

**PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND**

This is to give notice that the GOSR has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal (HUD) regulations under 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C - Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential effects that its activity in the floodplain and wetlands would have on the human environment. An "Early Notice of a Proposed Project in a 100-Year Floodplain, Floodway, and Wetlands" was published by the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery on December 19, 2020, in the Sun Community News newspaper. Floodplain and wetland maps, and the 8-step decision making process completed under 24 CFR Part 55 have been prepared and are available for review at <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>. No comments were received.

The Proposed Project is entirely located within the floodplain and floodway of the EBDR. The Proposed Project will involve improvements to approximately 4,000 linear feet of the EBAR, which constitutes approximately 1.95 acres of disturbance below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of the EBAR and approximately 3.44 acres of total disturbance in the floodplain and floodway. The proposed stream and floodplain improvements will improve flood resiliency and reduce the potential for ice jams. Project implementation would be conditioned upon issuance of applicable federal and state permits. The Proposed Project would be constructed in accordance with federal and state permit requirements and their conditions.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment have an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Project has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. The EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI. Subject to public comments, no further review of the Proposed Project is anticipated. HCR has determined that the EA for the Proposed Project complies with the requirements of HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. HCR has determined that the Proposed Project will have no significant impact on the human environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement under NEPA.

**Public Review:** Public viewing of the Floodplain Management & Protection of Wetlands Determination Documents and environmental review record is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>. Contact: James McAllister (646) 256-9485.

Further information may be requested by writing to the above address, emailing [NYSCDBG\\_DR\\_ER@nyshcr.org](mailto:NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org) or by calling (646) 256-9485. This combined notice is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, local news media, appropriate local, state and federal agencies, the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency having jurisdiction, and to the HUD Field Office, and is being published in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected community.

**Public Comments on the Proposed Activity within Floodplain and Wetlands, FONSI and/or NOIRROF:** Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the Proposed Activity. The public is hereby advised to specify in their comments which “notice” their comments address. Comments should be submitted via email, in the proper format, on or before March 29, 2021 at [NYSCDBG\\_DR\\_ER@nyshcr.org](mailto:NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org). All comments must be received on or before 5 PM on March 29, 2021 or they will not be considered. If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the expenditure of funds.

### **REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS AND CERTIFICATION**

On or after March 30, 2021, the HCR certifying officer will submit a request and certification to HUD for the release of CDBG-DR funds as authorized by related laws and policies for the purpose of implementing this part of the New York CDBG-DR program.

HCR certifies to HUD that James McAllister, in his capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the U.S. federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows GOSR to use CDBG-DR program funds.

**Objection to Release of Funds:** HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and GOSR’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later). Potential objectors may contact HUD or the GOSR Certifying Officer to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

The only permissible grounds for objections claiming a responsible entity's non-compliance with 24 CFR Part 58 are: (a) Certification was not executed by HCR's Certifying Officer; (b) the responsible entity has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the responsible entity has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before release of funds and approval of environmental certification; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the Proposed Project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, Director, Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, Phone: (202) 402-4649, or emailed to [disaster\\_recovery@hud.gov](mailto:disaster_recovery@hud.gov).

James McAllister  
Certifying Officer  
March 13, 2021



## Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

### **Distribution List for the FN/FONSI/NOIRROF East Branch of the Ausable River Restoration Project**

#### **FEDERAL AGENCIES**

Tennille Smith Parker, Director  
U.S. Dep. of Housing and Urban Development  
Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division  
451 7th Street SW, Room 7272  
Washington, DC 20410  
[Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov](mailto:Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov)

Angela A Russo  
U.S. Dep. Of Housing and Urban Development  
[Angela.A.Russo@hud.gov](mailto:Angela.A.Russo@hud.gov)

Rebecca Blanco  
U.S. Dep. Of Housing and Urban Development  
[Rebecca.Blanco@hud.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Blanco@hud.gov)

Ms. Therese J. Fretwell, Enviro. Officer, R 1 & 2  
U.S. Dep. of Housing and Urban Development  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3541  
New York, NY 10278-0068  
[Therese.J.Fretwell@hud.gov](mailto:Therese.J.Fretwell@hud.gov)

#### **By U.S. Mail Only:**

Thomas Von Essen, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Dep. of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, R II  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY 10278-0002

Ms. Robyn Niver  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
New York Field Office  
3817 Luker Rd  
Cortland, NY 13045  
[robyn\\_niver@fws.gov](mailto:robyn_niver@fws.gov)

Mr. Gian Dodici  
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Partners for Fish and Wildlife  
3817 Luker Rd  
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Andrew Dangler  
ATTN: CENAN-OP-RU  
Biologist/Senior Project Manager, Upstate New York Section  
Department of the Army, US Army Corps of Engineers,  
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North Watervliet, NY 12189  
[andrew.c.dangler@usace.army.mil](mailto:andrew.c.dangler@usace.army.mil)

### **NYS AGENCIES**

Mr. Ron Rausch, Director  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
625 Broadway, 2nd Floor  
Albany, New York 12238  
[Ron.Rausch@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Ron.Rausch@parks.ny.gov)

Erin Burns, Acting Regional Permit Administrator, Region 5  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
P.O. Box 296  
1115 State Route 86  
Ray Brook, NY 12977  
[dep.r5@dec.ny.gov](mailto:dep.r5@dec.ny.gov)

NYS Adirondack Park Agency  
P.O. Box 99  
1133 NYS Route 86  
Ray Brook, NY 12977  
[APAsubmissions@apa.ny.gov](mailto:APAsubmissions@apa.ny.gov)

Marlene White  
Supervisor, Mitigation Projects  
NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services  
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 7A - 4th Floor  
Albany, NY 12242  
[Marlene.White@dhSES.ny.gov](mailto:Marlene.White@dhSES.ny.gov)

**Local**

Anna Reynolds, Director  
Essex County Community Resources  
7553 Court Street, P.O. Box 217  
Elizabethtown, NY 12932  
[areynolds@co.essex.ny.us](mailto:areynolds@co.essex.ny.us)

Robbe Baer, Code Enforcement Officer  
Town of Jay  
P.O. Box 730  
Au Sable Forks, NY 12912  
[codes@townofjayny.gov](mailto:codes@townofjayny.gov)

Beatrice A. Pelkey, Town Clerk  
Town of Jay  
P.O. Box 730  
Au Sable Forks, NY 12912  
[townclerk@townofjayny.gov](mailto:townclerk@townofjayny.gov)

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